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Phil Newsom

# The CIA Under Fire

ONCE AGAIN the secrecy shroud has been torn and the public has had a peek at the doings of the Central Intelligence Agency.

As has been the case throughout the organization's 14-year history, just enough has been seen to cause controversy.

This time, the government has let it be known that the agency took a major part in the attempt by Cuban exiles last week to chase Fidel Castro and his Communist-inclined government off their home island.

Some administration officials have said that inadequate information on the military and political situation in Cuba was a big reason the drive failed.

THE CIA was not specifically mentioned. But administration officials said both American and Cuban-exile intelligence underestimated the resistance anti-Castro units would encounter on the island.

Other officials deny this. They say the CIA was fully abreast of the situation. The invasion failed, in their opinion, because of strictly military factors.

It is clear that the agency had a strong voice in the councils that planned and carried out the takeover attempt. And this is the sort of active role that some critics don't want the CIA to play.

Hubert H. Humphrey, second in command of Senate Democrats, predicted after a meeting with Kennedy earlier this week that the CIA will be instructed to devote itself strictly to the job of getting information, and to stay out of the policy-making field.

The Cuban incident came just short of a year after another major development involving the CIA: The downing of an American U-2 reconnaissance plane by Russia, and the capture of pilot Gary Powers.

IN THAT CASE, the intelligence agency had been carrying out its mission in the classic sense. The flights over Russia provided extensive information on Soviet military strength and deployment.

But the U-2 matter caused the United States considerable embarrassment. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev used it as an excuse to scuttle a cold war summit conference.

then it has been under fire of one sort or another almost from its inception.

For one thing, some factions in Congress object to the fact that Director Allen W. Dulles is the only government official with virtual blank-check power to draw on public funds.

Due to the sensitive nature of its work, the agency has been given the right to draw money it needs without the customary congressional scrutiny of the manner in which it is spent.

PERKINS, a member of Congress will demand a closer check on the CIA's activities and on its spending. But to date only a scant few lawmakers have been given the barest details.

The United States has, as a military necessity, been doing intelligence work since it came into being. But only since World War II has this reached a systematic, government-wide scale.

Former President Harry S. Truman laid the groundwork by ordering formation of the National Intelligence Authority. That group was charged with planning, developing and coordinating "all federal foreign intelligence activities."

Working under the authority was a central intelligence group, directed by a presidential appointee.

Then Congress passed the National Security Act, which became effective Sept. 18, 1947. This set up the National Security Council and the Central Intelligence Agency, the latter being assigned to ferret out facts and report them to the former.

THE SCOPE of the agency has expanded since then, and so has its size. Later this year, it will move into a new building up-river from Washington in the Virginia countryside.

The new headquarters is nearly half the size of the sprawling Pentagon. But it will not have sufficient space for the full agency staff.

Since February 1953, the CIA has been under the command of Dulles, an appointee of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower. President Kennedy decided early to keep him in the post.

The intelligence chief, now 68 years old, is a brother of the late John Foster Dulles, Eisenhower's secretary of state.

Under Dulles, the agency has grown more vigorous and more of its activities have been disclosed. Now that trend could